

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 18, 2017

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: CARRIE SANDERS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #5 -D.C. TO RICHMOND (DC2RVA) HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT

ISSUE: To provide the Transportation Commission with an update on the D.C.-to-Richmond (DC2RVA) High-Speed Rail Project.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission receive the update regarding the project.

DISCUSSION: The DC2RVA project corridor is a 123-mile stretch of railroad between Richmond, Virginia and Arlington, Virginia. Both freight and passenger rail services would operate along the corridor, with Amtrak providing intercity passenger rail service and Virginia Railway Express (VRE) providing commuter rail service. The DC2RVA corridor is one segment in a larger nationwide high speed intercity passenger rail plan identified by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and the states of Virginia and North Carolina. The overall goals of the DC2RVA project are to:

- Improve reliability and on-time performance
- Reduce travel time and improve trip times
- Increase frequency by adding up to 9 Amtrak round-trips daily between DC and Richmond from the current service of 10 trips per day

The D.C.-to-Richmond VA (DC2RVA) segment of the federally-designated Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor is the northernmost part of a five-state network of a high speed rail corridor under development, stretching southward from Washington D.C. through Richmond to Raleigh, Charlotte, Atlanta and Jacksonville. Track and signal improvements for the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor will provide capacity for more trains operating at speeds up to 110 miles per hour.

Currently, Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is engaged in a Tier II Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process that will evaluate the benefits, costs, and environmental effects of several possible alternatives. The Tier II Draft EIS (DEIS) will identify a preferred rail alignment and a series of improvements for the corridor.

The DEIS is scheduled for release in early 2017, followed by public hearings and a public comment period. Staff will prepare and submit comments to DRPT during the public comment period.